

PRESERVATION STUDIES

Preservation Studies at RWU prepares students for careers related to the historic and built environments, in order to foster a vibrant, healthy, and sustainable society. As the oldest undergraduate program of its kind in America, Preservation Studies at RWU combines coursework in subjects like history, art and architectural history, and American studies.

Students explore topics such as ethnicity, class, and religion to understand their impact on architecture and history. They benefit from rigorous field-based historical documentation and preservation workshops and internships. Because preservation is as much about people and places as it is about history, you'll study buildings, landscapes, and communities both here in New England and abroad.

- + Do you love exploring cities and buildings and understanding their pasts?
- + Would you like to be part of a close-knit academic community that explores history, architecture, law, and economics?
- + Do you want hands-on experience with restoration and preservation projects?

CAREER OUTLOOK

Preservation Studies alumni work in:

- National Park Service
- New York Landmarks Conservancy
- Slater Mill Historic Site
- State Preservation offices
- US/International Council on Monuments and Sites
- Goody Clancy Architects, Boston

Many **Preservation Studies** students continue their educations in graduate schools including:

- Clemson University
- Columbia University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Savannah College of Art and Design



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

“We had Bristol, Newport, and other communities as almost our laboratory – we got to see the development and restoration projects happening firsthand, as well as go behind the scenes to see what developers and preservation societies do. It was an excellent education in preservation. We were not isolated in studying it – we were on the ground learning it.”

Ben Bergenholtz '03 '12M, principal owner, Harborside Holdings Corporation

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Learn and Do More at RWU

With a focus on experiential learning at RWU, Preservation Studies majors can:

- Attend field-based workshops
- Complete research projects and paid internships
- Study abroad in Florence, Italy

Facilities and Resources

The School of Architecture, Art, and Historic Preservation (SAAHP) is located in an award-winning 65,000-square-foot building that includes the Samsung Design Studio, the Architecture Library, a materials and conservation lab, and a digital manufacturing lab. Students have regular access to off-campus historic sites for fieldwork.

Faculty

Faculty are art and architectural historians, architects, planners, historians, and leading preservation practitioners. They serve as mentors for you throughout your entire RWU career and beyond, offering their expertise and individualized support to ensure your success.



CURRICULUM

Structure

You will gain an understanding of the field within its greater historical and cultural contexts. You will also learn about historic preservation as a tool for revitalizing communities, bringing people together, and collaborating across professions. This program introduces students to research and documentation, architectural conservation, preservation planning, and heritage management.

Major requirements are divided into three program areas:

1. Foundation courses in architecture, architectural history, social and cultural studies, and historic preservation
2. Specialty course in building materials and history and technology
3. Technical courses in building documentation and analysis

Get a Great Internship

Preservation Studies students get paid internships through the Career Investment Program in placements like the RISD Museum, Preservation Society of Newport County, and the Newport Restoration Foundation.

4+1 B.S. in Preservation Studies + M.S. in Preservation Practices

You can earn a B.S. in Preservation Studies and an M.S. in Preservation Practices in five years by beginning graduate coursework in your senior year. The 4+1 program includes integrated, applied experience in a building materials and technology workshop, study of cultural resource management, and interdisciplinary planning and collaborative revitalization and redevelopment. Several courses are shared with architecture and urban + regional planning students. A graduate certificate in urban + regional planning is also available through elective offerings.

**OVER 80% OF
RWU STUDENTS
GRADUATE WITH
MORE THAN JUST
A SINGLE MAJOR**

RWU students have paired **Preservation Studies** with:

- Architecture
- Art and Architectural History
- Sustainability Studies
- Urban Studies
- American Studies
- Arts Management
- Construction Management
- History
- Anthropology + Sociology

